(c) the action taken by Government against the culprits in this regard;

(d) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to check such incidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Suicide cases due to Psychiatric Sufferings

†21. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is consistent increase in the suicide cases due to psychiatric sufferings;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step to prevent the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes Sir. As per a study done by the Indian Council of Medical Research, the suicide rates are higher in persons with mental illness as compared to general population, although, suicides are the end result of a multiplicity of problems.

(b) to (d) The Government has already initiated a pilot programme for providing care for persons with mental disorders in selected districts in the country. The District Mental Health Programme is currently being implemented in 25 Districts covering 20 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives.

In addition, treatment for mental disorders is available in a large number of territory hospitals in the Government and Private Sector.

†Original notice of the question was received to Hindi.